

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AEC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 INT-05

GSA-02 L-02 ACDA-10 NSC-05 OES-05 FEA-01 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 AID-05 /101 W

----- 048762

R 021025Z DEC 74

FM AMEMOASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 961

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

UNCLAS PRETORIA 5163

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT ON SA PURCHASE OF ENRICHED
URANIUM FROM U.S.

1. UNDER HEADLINE "SA-US ATOM DEAL" NOVEMBER 29 EDITION OF
FINANCIAL MAIL REPORTED THAT U. S. " DISCREETLY" ASSISTING SA
NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM BY SUPPLYING URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES.
ARTICLE NOTED THAT U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION SIGNED CONTRACT
EARLIER IN YEAR TO SUPPLY ENRICHMENT SERVICES FOR NUCLEAR POWER
STATION TO BE BUILT BY ESCOM AT DUINEFONTEIN, CAPE PROVINCE.
POWER STATION, CALLED KOEBERG-A, IS TO BE COMMISSIONED IN 1982.
(U.S. FIRMS WESTINGHOUSE, G.E., COMBUSTION ENGINEERING AND
BABCOCK AND WILCOX HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SUPPLYING HARDWARE.)
CURRENT PLANNING CALLS FOR SECOND STATION TO BE COMPLETED BY
1984. EACH WILL HAVE POWER OUTPUT OF 800 TO 1000 MW. ARTICLE
STATED THAT, UNDER TERMS OF CONTRACT WITH AEC, U.S. WILL PROVIDE
ENRICHMENT SERVICES FOR UP TO 2000 MW, I. E., ENOUGH TO
POWER BOTH PROJECTED PLANTS.

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2. ACCORDING TO FINANCIAL MAIL, CONTRACT ALSO PROVIDES FOR

REPROCESSING DEPLETED FUEL AT RATE OF ONE-THIRD OF REACTOR
CORE PER YEAR. AT \$10 MILLION PER 1000 MW EVERY THREE YEARS
ARTICLE CONCLUDED THAT COST OF ENRICHED FUEL WILL BE \$100
MILLION PER REACTOR OVER 30-YEAR LIFE SPAN OF EACH. ALSO
REFERRED TO POSSIBILITY OF DERIVING ENRICHMENT SERVICES FROM
URANIUM ENRICHMENT CORPORATION OF SA (UCOR) IN FUTURE, BUT
NOTED THAT PLANNED UCOR PRODUCTION FACILITY WILL NOT BE
OPERATIONAL IN TIME PROVIDE INITIAL CHARGES FOR KOEBERG-A.
3. FINALLY, ARTICLE RAISED QUESTION OF POSSIBLE US-SA
TRADE AGREEMENT INVOLVING SALE OF SA URANIUM OXIDE TO U. S.
FOR U.S. DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION. NOTED THAT U.S. DEMAND FOR
URANIUM OXIDE EXPECTED TO REACH 71,500 TONS ANNUALLY BY 1985,
ROUGHLY FIVE TIMES CURRENT U.S. PRODUCTION CAPABILITY. ARTICLE
IMPLIED THAT U.S. AGREEMENT PROVIDE SA WITH ENRICHMENT SERVICES
COULD
PRESAGE BROADER AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH U.S. WOULD DROP
BAN ON URANIUM IMPORTS AND BUY SOUTH AFRICAN. ARTICLE
CONCLUDED WITH COMMENT THAT U.S. " FACED WITH A KEEN NEED FOR
A STEADY SUPPLY OF URANIUM FROM SOME FRIENDLY TRADING PARTNER.
COULD SA HELP ..."
HURD

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